

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2002-197-C - ORDER NO. 2002-531

JULY 23, 2002

IN RE: Application of Farmers Telephone)	ORDER GRANTING
Cooperative, Inc. for Approval to Increase)	REQUEST <i>vo</i>
Depreciation of a portion of Copper Cables)	
that feed Electronic Systems in its Service)	
Territory.)	

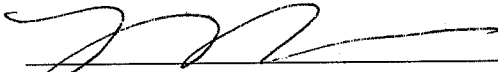
This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Farmers or the Coop.) to amortize its net book plant investment associated with an earlier retirement of certain copper cable facilities which are to be upgraded with fiber optic facilities. The upgrade of the cable facilities will enhance the Coop.'s ability to offer broadband service, according to Farmers. The Coop. seeks to amortize the net investment in these copper facilities over a three year period. According to Farmers, the increased expenses will not cause an increase in subscriber rates.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Commission's Executive Director, Farmers published a Notice of Filing one time in newspapers of general circulation. Farmers furnished proof of publication. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were filed in this matter. Since the matter is not part of a general rate case and does not affect the Coop.'s general body of subscribers, we will proceed to rule on this matter without a hearing, as per S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-540 (A)(Supp. 2001).

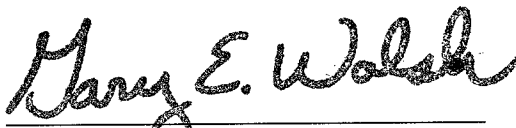
We have examined this matter and believe that the accounting treatment proposed is reasonable and consistent with standard accounting practices. Further we agree that the upgrade of the cable facilities will enhance the Coop.'s ability to offer broadband service. In addition, we agree that the increased expenses will not cause an increase in subscriber rates. Accordingly, Farmers' request is granted as filed.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)